

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals; and

said first connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said second terminals electrically, wherein:

said first electronic unit further has a second edge portion substantially parallel and opposite to said first edge portion and fourth terminals disposed along said second edge portion,

said apparatus further includes a second supporting member and a second connector;

said second connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and third terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said second connector,

said second connector is supported by said second supporting member and arranged substantially parallel and opposite to said first connector, and

said second connector is adapted to slidably guide said second edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said second connector to said first fully inserted position such that each one of said third terminals faces a respective one of said fourth terminals.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supporting member includes a circuit board.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a direction of a cooling airflow is substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction of said first connector.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion and a front opening in said front portion, wherein said first supporting member and said first connector are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially parallel to a direction from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said housing further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said first supporting member is substantially perpendicular to said front portion of said housing.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, wherein said second connector includes a second lock mechanism locking said second edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said third terminals and said fourth terminals electrically.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, wherein each of said first supporting member and said second supporting member includes a circuit board.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, wherein a direction of a cooling airflow is substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction of said first connector.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion and a front opening in said front portion, wherein said first supporting member, said second supporting member, said first connector and said second connector are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially parallel to a direction from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said housing further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction from said front portion to said rear portion.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first and second supporting members are substantially perpendicular to said front portion of said housing.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, wherein said first supporting member and said second supporting member are adapted to be electrically connected through said first electronic unit.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1-9, wherein said first and second supporting members are parallel to each other.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first and second connectors are adapted to support said first electronic unit such that said first electronic unit is substantially perpendicular to said first and second supporting members.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge portion;

said apparatus further comprises a third connector supported by said first supporting member;

said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said third connector;

said third connector is adapted to slidably guide said third edge portion of said second electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals faces a respective one of said sixth terminals;

said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said first connector in a first direction along said longitudinal direction of said first connector; and

said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said third connector in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 20, said third connector is arranged substantially parallel to said first connector.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening on said front portion and a rear opening on said rear portion, wherein

said first supporting member, said first connector and said third connector are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge portion;

said apparatus further comprises a third connector;

said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said third connector;

said third connector is supported by said first supporting member;

said third connector is adapted to slidably guide a third edge portion of said second electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals faces a respective one of said sixth terminals;

said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said first and second connectors in a first direction along said longitudinal direction of said first connector; and

said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said third connector in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening in said front portion and a rear opening in said rear portion, wherein

said first and second supporting members and said first, second and third connectors are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first and second supporting members are parallel to each other, and said third connector is arranged substantially parallel to said first connector.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first electronic unit is connected to said first connector.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

said first electronic unit further has a second edge portion substantially parallel and opposite to said first edge portion and fourth terminals disposed along said second edge portion;

said apparatus further includes a second supporting member and a second connector;

said second connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and third terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said second connector;

said second connector is supported by said second supporting member and arranged substantially parallel and opposite to said first connector;

said second connector is adapted to slidably guide said second edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said second connector to said first fully inserted position such that each one of said third terminals faces a respective one of said fourth terminals;

said first connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said second terminals electrically; and

said second connector includes a second lock mechanism locking said second edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said third terminals and said fourth terminals electrically.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

said first electronic unit further has a second edge portion substantially parallel and opposite to said first edge portion and fourth terminals disposed along said second edge portion;

said apparatus further includes a second supporting member and a second connector;

said second connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and third terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said second connector;

said second connector is supported by said second supporting member and arranged substantially parallel and opposite to said first connector, and

said second connector is adapted to slidably guide said second edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said second connector to said first fully inserted position such that each one of said third terminals faces a respective one of said fourth terminals,

said apparatus further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion and a front opening in said front portion, wherein said first supporting member, said second supporting member, said first connector and said second connector are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially parallel to a direction from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing.

30. (N Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said housing further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction from said front portion to said rear portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said first and second supporting members are substantially perpendicular to said front portion of said housing.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge portion;

said apparatus further comprises a third connector supported by said first supporting member;

said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said third connector;

said third connector is adapted to slidably guide said third edge portion of said second electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals faces a respective one of said sixth terminals;

said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said first connector in a first direction along said longitudinal direction of said first connector; and

said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said third connector in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, said third connector is arranged substantially parallel to said first connector.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening on said front portion and a rear opening on said rear portion, wherein

said first supporting member, said first connector and said third connector are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge portion;

said apparatus further comprises a third connector;

said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction of said third connector;

said third connector is supported by said first supporting member;

said third connector is adapted to slidably guide a third edge portion of said second electronic unit along said longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals faces a respective one of said sixth terminals;

said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said first and second connectors in a first direction along said longitudinal direction of said first connector; and

said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said third connector in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening in said front portion and a rear opening in said rear portion, wherein

said first and second supporting members and said first, second and third connectors are arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of said housing.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said first and second supporting members are parallel to each other, and said third connector is arranged substantially parallel to said first connector.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

- a housing comprising side walls, a front wall and a rear wall;
- a fan mounted on the rear portion aligned to direct a cooling airflow in a first direction;
- a second fan mounted on the front wall aligned to direct a second cooling airflow in the first direction;
- a first supporting member arranged in the housing; and
- a first connector on said first supporting member, said first connector comprising a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

- said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

- the first direction of cooling airflow is along the longitudinal direction; and

- the rear wall and front wall are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

39. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said first connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said second terminals electrically.

40. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said first connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said second terminals electrically.

41. (New) An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said apparatus comprising:

a first supporting member; and

a first connector supported by said first supporting member, said first connector having a body elongated in a longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said longitudinal direction, wherein:

said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such that each one of said first terminals faces a respective one of said second terminals;

said first connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said second terminals electrically; and

a housing having a front portion, a rear portion and a front opening in said front portion,
wherein:

said first supporting member and said first connector are arranged between said front
portion and said rear portion of said housing;

said longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially parallel to a direction
from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing; and

said housing further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction from said front
portion to said rear portion of said housing.